



## Child Nutrition & Wellness

785-296-2276

785-296-0232 (fax)

120 SE 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue • Topeka, KS 66612-1182 • 785-296-6338 (TTY) • [www.ksde.org](http://www.ksde.org)

December 1, 2009

Distributed to School Nutrition Program Authorized Representatives and Food Service Directors  
via Email

Here are a few updates on what's happening now.

**State Budget Cuts:** I'm sorry to start this message with bad news, but the most recent round of State budget cuts will also apply to the State reimbursement for the National School Lunch Program. The Kansas Legislature appropriated \$2,510,486 for school lunches and we have been paying reimbursement of 4.5 cents per lunch. The appropriation has been cut by 3 percent or \$75,315 to \$2,435,171. Our calculations indicate that we can now pay only 4 cents per lunch. This half-cent reduction will be applied beginning with November 2009 claims.

**Cost Control Tips:** In these times of budget shortfalls, making every penny count is essential. Visit our website for a list of cost saving measures for kitchen managers:  
[http://www.kn-eat.org/SNP/SNP\\_Menu/SNP\\_Whats\\_New.htm](http://www.kn-eat.org/SNP/SNP_Menu/SNP_Whats_New.htm)

**Verification:** The vast majority of you completed verification by November 15 and entered your results in KN-CLAIM well ahead of the December 15 deadline. Thank you very much! For those who have not completed verification or requested an extension of the November 15 deadline, please send me an email as soon as possible requesting an extension. Any extensions beyond December 15 require written approval from USDA.

**Bonus Commodities:** Based on extremely positive responses to last month's commodity survey, we are pursuing making available to Kansas schools mozzarella string cheese made with USDA bonus commodity nonfat dry milk. Because this cheese is made with commodity nonfat dry milk, it will be available to schools at a cost of 15 cents per serving plus less than one cent in distribution costs. I have been repeatedly assured by USDA that accepting this product will in no way jeopardize cash in-lieu-of commodities for Kansas schools. The cheese will be sold through a major food service distributor just like any other product. The only difference will be the lower price. More information will be provided in the January update.

**Kansas School Lunch Week:** Visit the website of the School Nutrition Association of Kansas (SNA-KS) for information on this year's celebration of Kansas School Lunch Week, January 25-29, 2010. We thank SNA-KS for taking this opportunity to promote KSDE's Healthier Kansas Menus. For more information visit: [www.sna-ks.org](http://www.sna-ks.org).

**Best wishes from all of us for a joyous holiday season!**